

Applicants believe this amendment and response brings the above-identified application into condition for allowance and respectfully request early and favorable notice thereof.

Dated: March 15, 2000

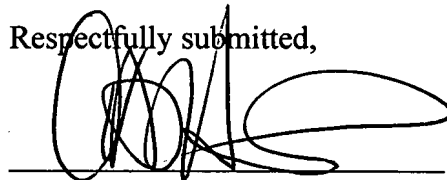
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Respectfully submitted,



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